

# Old Relationships, Older Vines

## Our History with the Geyserville and Dusi Vineyards

### Geyserville Vineyard

Our journey to Geyserville began with a neighborly visit in the early 1960s on Monte Bello. This visit would blossom into a multi-generational partnership that birthed our celebrated Geyserville wine. As newlyweds in the 1950s, Leo and Evelyn Trentadue purchased the historic Perrone winery on Montebello Road. The two stopped by their new neighbors (the Bennions, Rosens, and Cranes) at the old Torre property one day to see what they were up to. They became friends, and when the RIDGE partners decided to expand their wine offerings, Dave Bennion turned to the Trentadues for help. In 1966, he purchased zinfandel (and carignane) grapes from the Trentadues' Whitton Ranch vineyard in Alexander Valley and named the resulting wine "Geyserville." RIDGE next purchased the Perrone winery from the Trentadues and leased the surrounding land to plant more vines at Monte Bello. When Paul Draper was brought on in 1969 to become Winemaker and to refurbish the Perrone winery, he saw Geyserville as a uniquely Californian wine, one where the soils, climate, farming, and exceptional quality from the Old Patch at the Whitton Ranch (a pre-Prohibition mixed planting of zinfandel, carignane, and many other varieties) are perfectly matched.

We were able to lease the Whitton Ranch in 1990 and hired the Trentadues' son Victor and his wife Cindy to farm it. We were thrilled to purchase this vineyard in 2015, and now grandson Steve Trentadue is working with our viticulturist Mauro Maldonado to farm this historical property.

Top Left: Vines in Geyserville  
Top Right: Fredson Ranch at Geyserville  
Lower Right: Dusi Vineyard



### Dusi Vineyard

In his quest to find older vineyards to supplement Ridge's production, Dave Bennion purchased some zinfandel grapes from Benito Dusi in 1967 and called the wine "Paso Robles." Beni had been farming his family's vineyard, planted in 1922, since he was 13, when his older brothers went off to war. Dave and Beni became good friends, sharing meals and stories over the years. We returned to buy more grapes in 1976, and we have continued ever since. With Beni's passing, his nephew Mike and Mike's grandson Dante are farming the Benito Dusi Vineyard now, carrying on Benny's tradition of careful farming and attention to detail.

—David Gates, Sr. VP of Vineyard Operations



**Behind the Vines:** David Gates' Impact on California Winegrowing  
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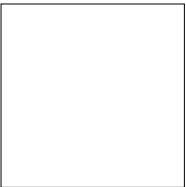


SPRING 2025

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This is your vintage-by-vintage resource to track how your Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is developing through the years. As we taste additional library vintages, new data will be added to this page.



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### JOIN US

## Virtual Tasting

Friday, April 25, 2025  
10 a.m. PDT

Join us as David Gates, Senior VP of Vineyard Operations, John Olney, Head Winemaker & COO, Shauna Rosenblum, Lytton Springs Winemaker, and Michael Torino, Senior VP of Global Sales, take you through our spring release wines.

More information:  
ridgewine.com/spring-2025-virtual-tasting

ridgewine.com/trade



# Sustainability Report

## Message from the CEO

At RIDGE, we call our approach to winemaking “pre-industrial.” We believe that for anyone attempting to make fine wine, modern additives and industrial processing limit true quality. Pre-industrial winemaking begins with respect for the natural process that transforms fresh grapes into wine and the 19th-century model of minimum intervention. When you have great vineyards that produce high-quality grapes of distinctive individual character, this is not only an environmentally and socially responsible approach, it’s also the best way to consistently make fine wine. In 2023, we started a Sustainability Committee, with a group of RIDGE employees who are passionate about the needs of the planet. The committee’s collective work and research are the basis of the Sustainability Report, which will be updated as major milestones and goals are achieved.

*Mark Vernon*

Mark Vernon, CEO, Ridge Vineyards

## Commitment to Carbon Reduction

Joining the IWCA in August 2021 marked a significant step for RIDGE in our sustainable journey. In 2022, we conducted our first comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, which led to our certification as an IWCA Silver Member. We completed our second audit in 2024, which showed our reduction in emissions. Our ongoing commitment includes achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 and reaching specific milestones by 2030.



## Packaging Innovations

### Lightweight Glass Initiative

In our quest to reduce our carbon footprint, RIDGE has transitioned to lighter-weight glass bottles, significantly decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our bottle production and transport. This initiative is a part of our broader strategy to minimize our environmental impact across all aspects of our packaging.

### Three-Bottle Box Program

While our branded wood boxes were popular with Monte Bello collectors, we realize there were better options available. With that in mind, we switched to a new three-bottle box made from 100% recycled paper, water-based ink, and Green Cell Foam packing materials.

### Wine on Tap

In 2023, we put a small amount of our 2021 Three Valleys into kegs. We partnered with Free Flow Wines, a keging facility in Sonoma whose commitment to quality in this space is unparalleled.



## Organic Certification

RIDGE is proud to announce that as of 2023, 100% of our estate vineyards have achieved organic certification. This milestone is a result of our long-standing commitment to organic farming practices that enrich the soil, promote a healthier ecosystem, and support sustainable wine production.

To achieve certification, you must adhere to the farming standards of the National Organic Program for three transition years. The rules:

- i. You may use only certified organic pesticides, fertilizers, and other inputs, and keep records of all inputs.
- ii. You must register with and pay a fee to the state.
- iii. You must contract with a third-party certifier, who inspects your records and property annually to ensure you are complying with National Organics standards.

## Championing Human Rights and Diversity

Established in 2020 by forward-thinking employees, RIDGE’s Diversity Committee focuses on enhancing our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). This initiative is a direct response to our team’s desire to improve internal DEI practices and align them more closely with our organizational values. We created focus groups to promote collaboration and diversity of thought, and we developed ongoing DEI training to educate and engage employees.



**RIDGE Sustainability Report**  
**View it here!** We’re proud to introduce RIDGE’s first Sustainability Report, showcasing our dedication to environmental stewardship, responsible winemaking, and the well-being of our employees and communities.



## RIDGE 2025

# Spring Releases

“Pre-industrial winemaking begins with respect for the natural process that transforms fresh grapes into wine and the 19th-century model of minimum intervention.”

—Mark Vernon  
CEO, Ridge Vineyards



## 2023 Estate Chardonnay

**Site:** Monte Bello Estate vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Red, decomposing Franciscan rock mixed with clay/loam; fractured limestone subsoils.



## 2023 Three Valleys

**Site:** Five vineyards in Alexander Valley, four in Dry Creek Valley, and one in Sonoma Valley. Varied soils; a predominance of gravelly loam; gravelly clay loam on hillsides.



## 2023 Geyserville

**Site:** Western edge of Alexander Valley, Sonoma County. Zinfandel, petite sirah, carignane — oldest vines planted in 1891.



## 2023 East Bench Zinfandel

**Site:** On top of the bench that separates Dry Creek Valley and Alexander Valley appellations, north of Healdsburg in Sonoma County.



## 2023 Paso Robles Zinfandel

**Site:** Three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101. Zinfandel grape vines planted in 1923.



## 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

**Site:** Monte Bello Estate vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, petit verdot, and cabernet franc — oldest vines planted in 1949.